

IV. REMARKS

The specification is amended. Claims 5, 8, 9 and 16 are amended. The drawings are amended to incorporate legends in FIG. 1b and the "Tables" in FIGS. 6 and 8.

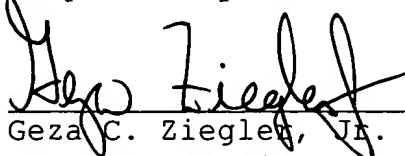
Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 1-4, 6-8 and 12-15.

The changes to the claims address the claim objections and 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejections of claims 5, 9-11 and 16.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


Geza C. Ziegler, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,004

21 January 2004
Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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